



**Saint Cosmas of Aetolia, Equal-to-the-Apostles
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on August 24**

Our holy Father Cosmas was from the town of Mega Dendron (Great Tree) of Aetolia. At the age of twenty, he went to the school of the Monastery of Vatopedi on the Holy Mountain. Later, he came to the Athonite Monastery of Philotheou where he was tonsured. With the blessing of his Abbot, he departed for Constantinople where he learned the art of rhetoric, and, thereafter, he began to preach throughout all the regions of northern Greece, the Ionian Islands, but especially in Albania, for the Christian people there were in great ignorance because of the oppression and cruelty of the Moslems. Finally, in 1776, after having greatly strengthened the faithful, working many signs and wonders all the while, he was falsely accused by leaders of the Jewish people and was executed by strangulation by the Moslem Turks in Albania.

Dismissal Hymn of Saint Cosmas. Fourth Tone

WITH odes let us acclaim the renowned Cosmas, who gloriously excelled among the choirs of the martyrs, priests, and ascetics, and let us gather; for he dispenseth healing to them that have recourse to him with faith, since, as an equal of the Apostles, he hath boldness before Christ.

Kontakion of Saint Cosmas. Fourth Tone
Thou Who wast raised up

COME from Aetolia, O God-bearing Father, * thou didst become a righteous monk on Mount Athos; * and as a true initiate of the glory of God, * thou didst preach the word of truth * to all men, O Most blest one, * and didst bring them all to Christ * as a true emulator * of the Apostle's choir, and thou didst prove * a Hieromartyr in shedding thy sacred blood.



† THE LIFE OF SAINT COSMAS AETOLIA